AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims shall replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application:

1.   (Currently amended) An automated data storage library for accessing data storage media in response to commands from at least one external host system, comprising:

a housing unit;

a plurality of storage shelves for storing data storage cartridges within the housing unit, a data storage cartridge including data storage medium and a cartridge memory;

a data storage drive for reading data to and/or writing data from the data storage medium;

a cartridge memory interface for reading data from and/or writing data to at least one predetermined data field of the cartridge memory;

a robot accessor for transporting data storage cartridges between the storage shelves and the data storage drive;

a processor programmed with instructions to ~~modify~~ corrupt the at least one predetermined data field to render data stored on the data storage medium inaccessible and to remove the corruption of the at least one predetermined data field to render data stored on the data storage medium accessible.

2-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Previously presented) The automated data storage library of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of logical libraries, the processor further programmed with instructions to write an identifier, associated with at least one predetermined logical library, to the at least one predetermined data field whereby data stored on the data storage medium is accessible only by a data storage drive assigned to the at least one predetermined logical library.

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7.   (Previously presented) The automated data storage library of claim 1, the processor further programmed with instructions to write an identifier, associated with at least one physical predetermined library, to the predetermined data field whereby data stored on the data storage medium is accessible only by a data storage drive in the at least one predetermined library.

8.   (Previously presented) The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the cartridge memory interface is integrated with the storage drive.

9.   (Previously presented) The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the cartridge memory interface is integrated with the robot accessor.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Previously presented) The automated data storage library of claim 1, further comprising an export station in the housing unit, the processor further programmed with instructions to require a correct password before the data storage cartridge is removed from the automated data storage library through the export station.

12.   (Currently amended) A method for accessing data stored on data storage media stored within an automated data storage library, the data storage media housed within a data storage cartridge having a cartridge memory, the method comprising:

retrieving a data storage cartridge from a storage shelf in the data storage library, at least one predetermined data field in the cartridge memory having first contents whereby data stored on the data storage medium is accessible;

modifying corrupting the contents of the at least one predetermined data field to have second contents whereby the data stored on the data storage medium is inaccessible; and

removing the corruption whereby the data stored on the data storage medium is rendered accessible.

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13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of ~~modifying~~ corrupting the at least one predetermined data field is performed by a cartridge memory interface integrated with a robot accessor in the data storage library.

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of ~~modifying~~ corrupting the at least one predetermined data field is performed by a cartridge memory interface integrated with a data storage drive in the data storage library.

15-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently amended) A controller for an automated storage library, comprising:

means for receiving a request to move a data storage cartridge;

means for directing a robot accessor to retrieve the data storage cartridge;

means for ~~modifying~~ corrupting contents of at least one predetermined data field of a cartridge memory of the data storage cartridge to render data stored on the data storage medium inaccessible;

means for ~~providing~~ removing the corruption to restore the contents to allow access to the data on the data storage medium; and

means for directing the robot accessor to move the data storage cartridge to a storage shelf within a housing unit of the automated storage library.

25-26. (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously presented) The controller of claim 24, wherein the cartridge memory interface is integrated with the robot accessor.

28.   (Previously presented) The controller of claim 24, wherein the cartridge memory interface is integrated with the data storage drive.

29.   (Cancelled)

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30.   (Currently amended) The controller of claim 24, wherein:

the automated storage library comprises a plurality of libraries; and

the controller further comprises means for writing at least one identifier, associated with at least one predetermined library, to the cartridge memory whereby data stored on the data storage medium is accessible only to a drive assigned to the at least one predetermined library.

31-37. (Cancelled)

38.   (New) An automated data storage library for accessing data storage media in response to commands from at least one external host system, comprising:

a housing unit;

a plurality of storage shelves for storing data storage cartridges within the housing unit, a data storage cartridge including data storage medium and a cartridge memory;

a data storage drive for reading data to and/or writing data from the data storage medium;

a cartridge memory interface for reading data from and/or writing data to at least one predetermined data field of the cartridge memory, the at least one predetermined data field including a media generation;

a robot accessor for transporting data storage cartridges between the storage shelves and the data storage drive;

a processor programmed with instructions to write an invalid media generation the at least one predetermined data field to render data stored on the data storage medium inaccessible_and to write the correct media generation to render data stored on the data storage medium accessible.

39.   (New) A method for accessing data stored on data storage media stored within an automated data storage library, the data storage media housed within a data storage cartridge having a cartridge memory, the method comprising:

retrieving a data storage cartridge from a storage shelf in the data storage library, at least one predetermined data field in the cartridge memory having first contents whereby data stored on the data storage medium is accessible, the first contents including a media generation;

writing an invalid media generation whereby the data stored on the data storage medium is inaccessible; and

writing the correct media generation whereby the data stored on the data storage medium is rendered accessible.

40. (New) A controller for an automated storage library, comprising:

means for receiving a request to move a data storage cartridge having at least one predetermined data field of a cartridge memory, the at least one predetermined data field including a media generation;

means for directing a robot accessor to retrieve the data storage cartridge;

means for writing an invalid media generation to the cartridge memory to render data stored on the data storage medium inaccessible;

means for writing the correct media generation to the cartridge memory to restore the contents to allow access to the data on the data storage medium; and

means for directing the robot accessor to move the data storage cartridge to a storage shelf within a housing unit of the automated storage library.